

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 18, 21, 24, 25, 28-30, 32, and 34, and add new claims 37-51, as indicated in the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-17. Canceled.

18. (Currently Amended) In a corrugated pipe comprising two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, the improvement comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end; and

an annular band of reinforcing material disposed around the exterior surface of the female end at a position along the longitudinal axis thereof that is in general alignment with the sealing element, the reinforcing material arranged to prevent loss of sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element when the female end is subjected to a predetermined level of internal pressure,

wherein the reinforcing ~~[[element]]~~ material has a width not substantially greater than a single corrugation and is not a hose clamp.

19. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 18, wherein the annular sealing element is disposed in an annular channel in the outer surface of the male end.
20. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 18, wherein each section includes opposed male and female ends and the outside pipe diameter of each section between its respective male and female ends is substantially the same.
21. (Currently Amended) The corrugated pipe of claim 20, wherein the outside diameter of the female end ~~of each section~~ is substantially the same as the outside pipe diameter.
22. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 19, wherein the male end includes at least two corrugations comprising at least two axially-spaced, annular crests and an annular valley therebetween, the two crests defining the outside diameter of the male end, and wherein the annular channel is formed in one of the crests.
23. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 22, wherein the outside diameter of the male end is selected to permit mating and sealing engagement with the female end.

24. (Currently Amended) The corrugated pipe of claim 22, wherein ~~each section the male end~~ includes an annular intermediate corrugation adjacent ~~the male end~~ defining an outside diameter greater than the outside diameter of the male end, ~~the intermediate corrugation~~ and being disposed to engage the distal end of the female end when fully mated.
25. (Currently Amended) In a corrugated pipe comprising two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, the improvement comprising:
- an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end; and
  - an annular band of reinforcing material disposed around the exterior surface of the female end at a position along the longitudinal axis thereof that is in general alignment with the sealing element, the reinforcing material structurally configured to prevent loss of sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element during use of the pipe;
- wherein the annular sealing element is disposed in an annular channel in the outer surface of the male end;
- wherein the male end includes at least two corrugations comprising at least two axially-spaced, annular crests and an annular valley therebetween, the two crests defining the outside diameter of the male end, and wherein the annular channel is formed in one of the crests;

wherein ~~each section~~ the male end includes an annular intermediate corrugation ~~adjacent the male end~~ defining an outside diameter greater than the outside diameter of the male end, ~~the intermediate corrugation~~ and being disposed to engage the distal end of the female end when fully mated; and

wherein the outside diameter of the intermediate corrugation is less than the outside pipe diameter.

26. Canceled.
27. (Previously Amended) The corrugated pipe of claim 30, wherein the male end also includes a second corrugation that can be accommodated in the female end.
28. (Currently Amended) The corrugated pipe of claim 30, wherein the female end includes a distal end into which the male end is inserted, and the male end includes a third corrugation with a crest that extends radially outwardly at least as far as the distal end of the female end.
29. (Currently Amended) A corrugated pipe for accommodating fluid flow, the pipe ~~[[consisting of]]~~ including a material that deforms in response to internal water pressure and including two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, the improvement comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end; ~~[[and]]~~

an annular reinforcement member ~~[[material]]~~ extruded around the exterior surface of the female end, the annular reinforcement ~~[[material]]~~ member having a width that is greater than the width of the sealing element but is not substantially greater than a single corrugation, the annular reinforcement ~~[[material]]~~ member being disposed substantially upstream from the sealing element and configured to resist loss of sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element during use of the pipe; and

wherein the female end includes a first material and the annular reinforcement member includes a second material that is different from the first material of the female end.

30. (Currently Amended) A corrugated pipe ~~[[comprising]]~~ having two sections of material joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end; ~~[[and]]~~

an annular band of reinforcing coating disposed around the exterior surface of the female end at a position along the longitudinal axis thereof that is in general alignment with the sealing element, and structurally configured to preclude the corrugated pipe, which normally expands outwardly when subjected to a predetermined level of interior pressure, from expanding outwardly at the site

of the sealing element and losing sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element when the pipe is subjected to the predetermined level of interior pressure; and

wherein the annular band of reinforcing coating includes a portion of material that is different from the material of the female end of the corrugated pipe.

31. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 30, wherein the annular band of reinforcing coating is structurally configured to maintain sealing engagement between the female end of the corrugated pipe and the sealing element when the pipe is subjected to the predetermined level of interior pressure.
32. (Currently Amended) A corrugated pipe comprising:
- a male end having a corrugation;
  - a female end disposed around the male end and capable of expanding to allow fluid flow outside of the male end when the male and female ends are subjected to a predetermined level of internal pressure;
  - a gasket disposed around the corrugation of the male end; and
  - a ring disposed around the female end and arranged to maintain a seal between an outer surface of the gasket and an inner surface of the female end when the male and female ends are subjected to the predetermined level of internal pressure; and

wherein the ring is not a hose clamp, the female end includes a first material, and the ring includes a second material that has a greater structural rigidity than the first material of the female end.

33. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 32, wherein gasket is disposed in an annular channel formed in the corrugation of the male end.
34. (Currently Amended) The corrugated pipe of claim 32, wherein the ~~[[continuous]]~~ ring is radially aligned with the gasket.
35. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 34, wherein the female end includes at least one guide for maintaining the ring in radial alignment with the gasket.
36. (Previously Amended) The corrugated pipe of claim 32, wherein the ring comprises any one of a single piece of material that does not include any structure for allowing the ring to be unwound or expanded, a coating that includes an extruded plastic material, or a coating that includes one or more of a fiberglass, carbon, or plastic fiber.
37. (New) The corrugated pipe of claim 18, wherein the female end is made of a first material, and the annular band of reinforcing material includes a second material that is different from the first material of the female end.

38. (New) The corrugated pipe of claim 37, wherein the first material is extruded plastic, and the second material includes one or more of a fiberglass, carbon, or plastic fiber.
39. (New) The corrugated pipe of claim 37, wherein the second material resists deformation greater than the first material.
40. (New) The corrugated pipe of claim 29, wherein the female end is made of a first material, the annular band of reinforcing material includes a second material that is different from the first material of the female end, and the second material resists deformation greater than the first material.
41. (New) The corrugated pipe of claim 30, wherein the portion of material of the annular band of reinforcing coating comprises one or more of a fiberglass portion, a carbon portion, or a plastic fiber portion, and the material of the female end of the corrugated pipe comprises extruded plastic.
42. (New) The corrugated pipe of claim 30, wherein the portion of material of the annular band of reinforcing coating resists deformation greater than the material of the female end of the corrugated pipe.



42. (New) The corrugated pipe of claim 32, wherein the reinforcing material includes one or more of a fiberglass portion, a carbon portion, or a plastic fiber portion, and the expandable material of the female end comprises extruded plastic.
43. (New) A reinforcement for a corrugated pipe connection having a male end with a corrugation, a female end disposed around the male end, and a seal between an outer surface of the corrugation of the male end and an inner surface of the female end, comprising:
- a reinforcing member coated around an outer surface of the female end and structurally configured to maintain the seal between the outer surface of the corrugation of the male end and the inner surface of the female end when the pipe is subjected to a predetermined level of interior pressure; and
- wherein the female end comprises an extruded plastic material, and the reinforcing member includes an extruded plastic material and one or more of a fiberglass material, a carbon fiber material, or a plastic fiber material.
44. (New) The reinforcement of claim 43, wherein an extrusion bond is formed between the extruded plastic material of the female end and the extruded plastic material of the reinforcing member.
45. (New) The reinforcement of claim 43, wherein the reinforcing member comprises a coating.

46. (New) The reinforcing member of claim 43, wherein the reinforcing member resists deformation caused by the predetermined level of interior pressure greater than the extruded plastic material of the female end of the corrugated pipe.
47. (New) The reinforcing member of claim 43, wherein the reinforcing member is extruded around an exterior surface of the female end.
48. (New) The reinforcing member of claim 43, wherein the reinforcing member has a width that is greater than a width of the seal between the outer surface of the corrugation of the male end and the inner surface of the female end.
49. (New) The reinforcing member of claim 48, wherein the width of the reinforcing member is not substantially greater than a width of the corrugation of the male end.
50. (New) The reinforcing member of claim 43, wherein the reinforcing member is radially aligned with the seal between the outer surface of the corrugation of the male end and the inner surface of the female end.

51. (New) The reinforcing member of claim 50, wherein the female end includes at least one guide for maintaining the reinforcing member in radial alignment with the seal between the outer surface of the corrugation of the male end and the inner surface of the female end.